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310

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NSC DISTRIBUTION AUTHORIZATION

SUBJECT: CONFIDENTIAL COMINT OPERATIONS (May 10, 1948)

NUMBER: _____

PRIORITY: URGENT _____

REGULAR _____

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The President

The Secretary of State

The Secretary of Defense

The Secretary of the Army

The Secretary of the Navy

The Secretary of the Air Force

The Chairman,
National Security Resources Board

Executive Secretary, NSC

10

Director of Central Intelligence

Director, Policy Planning Staff
Department of State

Director of Plans and Operations
Department of the Army

Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Operations)
Department of the Navy

Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations
Department of the Air Force

Director of the Joint Staff
Joint Chiefs of Staff

State Member, NSC Staff

6

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INT 780/2

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Army Member, NSC Staff

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Navy Member, NSC Staff

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Air Force Member, NSC Staff

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MSR B. Rumba, NSC Staff

10

CIA Representative, NSC Staff

11

Assistant Executive Secretary, NSC

12

Coordinator of the Staff, NSC

3-10

Assistant to the Coordinator, NSC Staff

4-10

Administrative Asst to Coordinator

13

Research Assistant to the Executive Secretary

14

NSC Registry (Permanent File)

15

NSC Files

13

5

Authorized by: 5,

Date: 5/10/48

- 2 -

UNCLASSIFIED

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INT 780/3

May 10, 1948

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SUBJECTS OF COVERT OPERATIONS

TYPE OF OPERATIONS

1. To consider measures for the furtherance of covert operations in the interest of our national security.

ANALYSIS

1. In time of peace the means employed by a nation to achieve its national objectives are both overt and covert. They range from such overt actions as political alliances, economic measures (as ERP), and "white" informational activities, to such covert operations as unacknowledged support of "friendly" foreign elements, "black" propaganda and even encouragement of underground resistance in hostile states. Overt operations are the traditional policy activities of any foreign office enjoying positive leadership. Covert operations are traditional in many European chancelleries but are relatively unfamiliar to this government.

2. Having assumed a greater international responsibility than ever before in our history and having been engaged in a "cold war" by the full might of the Berlin, we cannot afford to leave unutilized our resources for covert operations. We cannot afford in the future, in perhaps severe serious political crises, to rely upon [redacted] overt operations [redacted].

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INT 780/4

4. In NSC 4-a provision was made for the conduct of certain covert psychological operations. The SARACC has considered such matters as utilization of refugees from the USSR in the United States national interest, plans for evacuation of key foreign personnel, demolition of oil facilities, and psychological warfare (SARACC 395, 396, 398, 399 series). In connection with the latter topic, the views of the JCS, concurred in by SARACC, have been referred to the RIC for consideration. It is the opinion of the JCS that from the military point of view "there should be established, as soon as practicable, under the RIC, a psychological warfare organization, but with its peacetime scope and activities limited to that of a working nucleus for planning and coordination" (SARACC 394/14). The Policy Planning Staff of the Department of State has also submitted informally to the RIC Staff a paper suggesting a unified direction of covert operations.

5. In the light of the above considerations, the RIC staff has prepared a proposed RIC Directive which is believed to be consistent with the views of the JCS and which is also designed to strengthen and extend current covert operations in the interest of our national security and to provide for plans and preparations for the conduct of covert operations and of the overt phases of psychological warfare in time of war. The staff has also prepared a revision of p 1-A-

-2-

UNCLASSIFIED

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which renders the letter consistent with the proposed
directive.

CONTINUED

6. The proposed NSC Directive in Annex 1 should
be approved, and if approved,

~~✓~~ The proposed revision of NSC 4-2 in Annex 2
should be approved.

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